

CONFIDENTIAL
INTERVIEW

Eastern Germany

REPORT NO.

Military Information from Letzling Heath

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 17 June to 4 July 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 6 August 1952

REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS 25X1

 1. Columns seen moving from and to the Wolmirstedt railroad station, southeast of the Letzling Heath (II 53/Y 52) troop training grounds during the period from 17 to 26 June 1952 included:

 25X1 17 June: Truck with 7 new three-axle trucks 25X1 and, a short time later, additional 22 new unnumbered trucks, coming from the railroad station.

25X1 25X1

 2. On 26 June 1952, the Panzerkaserne in Staats (II 53/Y 64) was occupied by about 500 to 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. Four T 34/85 tanks, 6 JS III tanks and 2 SP guns were seen engaged in cross-country driving at the training area nearby. Residents in Staats stated that between 50 and 60 tanks and SP guns were in the installation. Motor vehicles seen at the barracks installation and the wooded area south of the installation

25X1

 3. On 26 June 1952, about 100 tents each housing between 10 and 12 soldiers, 10 to 20 canvas-covered guns and between 60 and 80 trucks were seen on the north edge of the Letzling Heath troop training grounds, 3 km east of Jaevenitz. The camp stretched into the wooded area toward the south. Wooden sheds and low wooden buildings

25X1 were under construction. Officers and personnel seen outside the camp wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.
25X1 There was only minor motor vehicle traffic.

25X1

4. On 27 June, [redacted] no military trains had either arrived at [redacted]

25X1 departed from the local station during the last two weeks. Source determined that all roads across the woods south and north of the village of Born on the western edge of the Letzling Heath troop training grounds toward the east were blocked and guarded by numerous sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. Motor vehicles seen in supply traffic on the Neuhausensleben [redacted]

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5. On 27 June 1952, the barracks installation at the west exit of Hillersleben was occupied by about 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Residents stated that the barracks installation was occupied to capacity but that the units had left in the northern direction for a period of several days. No training activity was noticed. Thirteen canvas-covered tanks were under two open sheds.

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6. On 27 June 1952, the barracks installation at the northeast exit of Hillersleben was occupied by about 1,200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Intensive training activity was going on in the barracks area. Forty to 50 trucks were sheltered in a number of open sheds in the eastern section of the installation.

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7. On 17 June, a camp with a large number of circular tents, numerous sedans and trucks was seen just south of the Jaevenitz-Lottendorf railroad line. Low buildings were under construction.

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8. A telephone line was under construction between Gardelegen and the gate of the installation in Zienau.

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9.

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10. On 19 and 20 June 1952, a camp covering an area of about 2 square kilometers, or three forest sections, was seen 500 meters south of Jaevenitz. There were huts for troops, each housing 40 soldiers, and small wooden buildings for officers. The cabins were about 6' x 12' meters and were equipped with two rows of cots with straw mattresses. Source believed that the camp was still unoccupied except for an advance detail. (3)

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25X1 [REDACTED] a camp housing a tank unit from Kramphnitz, near Potsdam (I. 50/E 63), was near Colbitz on the southeast edge of Letzling Heath. Colonel Patvokovnik (fmu) allegedly was camp commander while Colonel Bradlikov (fmu) was deputy commander and Captain Vakhromeyen (fmu) was supply officer. The camp was supplied by a cooperative store in Potsdam. [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 12. Prior to 24 June, [REDACTED] units from Dessau-Rosslau (II 52/E 17) who had previously been observed at the troop training grounds every year were quartered on the western border of Letzling Heath, near Flanken, Huetten and Born. [REDACTED] Colonel Stannikhen (phonetic spelling) (fmu) was commanding officer, while Major Plushnikov (fmu) was commanding officer of a supply unit and Major Pavlosyenko (fmu) was political officer. Additional officers seen included Colonel Gusakov (fmu), Lieutenants Lusminnik (fmu) and Davydov (fmu), and Senior Lieutenant Polyakov (fmu) who was paymaster of a unit from Rosslau. (4)

25X1

[REDACTED] 13. At 6:45 on 20 June, 50 unnumbered trucks were entrained at the Neuhalensleben railroad station and were hauled in the direction of Magdeburg (II 51/D 69). On 3 July, 40 unnumbered trucks were unloaded at the Neuhalensleben railroad station and, subsequently, proceeded in the direction of the wood camp south of Huetten.

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[REDACTED] 14. At 11:30 a.m. on 1 July, a train of 27 boxcars and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying seven 122-mm guns and trucks [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 15. About 500 new tents arranged in sections of 32 each, were seen at the Jaevenitz hutment during the period from 26 June to 4 July. Source noticed rifle units and tank units. Five well camouflaged T-34 tanks, with their crews engaged in a critique, were seen in the area between Jaevenitz and the Zienau roadblock. Source determined that the training area near Jaevenitz was being expanded as far as the railroad junction at the Jaevenitz-Letzlinger road and highway No 71 southwest of Jaevenitz. [REDACTED]

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Comments.

- (1) The columns seen belonged to units of the 10th Gds Tank Div.
- (2) This information confirms that the barracks installation in Staats was occupied by units of the 16th (?) Gds Tank Sq Regt of the 207th Ntz Rifle Div until 26 June 1952. [REDACTED]
- (3) Although the information in paragraphs 3, 7, 10 and 15 is not entirely concordant, [REDACTED] most probably refer to the [REDACTED] in the woods south of Netendorf which is known from previous reports and can be confirmed as occupied by units of the 207th Ntz Rifle Div until 4 July 1952. [REDACTED]
- (4) The information in paragraphs 4, 12 and 13 confirms that the area of Flanken, Huetten and Born is occupied by units of the 7th Gds Tank Div of the 19th Gds Mech Div and the 136th Gds Lv Tank Sq Regt of 6th Shock Army. [REDACTED] Individual vehicles of Eq

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units of the Third Shock Army and the Third Gds Kozz Army have also repeatedly been seen in that area.

(5) The information indicates that the two barracks installations in Hattersleben are still occupied by units of the 19th Gds Kozz Div.

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(6)

(7) The 10th Gds Tank Div which was believed stationed in the area northwest of Colbitz in Camp Döllie has been confirmed for the first time by the information contained in the present report.

(8) The train was unloaded by units of the 207th Ktz Rifle Div, probably the 693d How Arty Regt which possibly moved to the camp in Hottendorf.

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